Butterflies

SCHOLASTIC A FIRST DISCOVERY BOOK

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BUTTERFLIES

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A FIRST DISCOVERY BOOK

SCHOLASTIC INC.
New York Toronto London Auckland Sydney

There are 150,000 different types of butterflies and moths; that's a lot!
You see butterflies during the day...

...and moths, butterfly cousins,
at night. They are attracted to light.

The butterfly has six legs, four wings, and two antennae.

It is the only insect whose body is partly covered in multicolored scales.

The proboscis, or tongue, acts like a vacuum for food. While not in use, the proboscis curls up in a spiral.

The butterfly's eyes are made up of tiny facets that are extremely sensitive to movement and to color.

They have three pairs of muscular legs that are attached to the thorax, or chest. The front feet search for sweet foods. The organs on its hind feet help the butterfly to taste the nectar.

The butterfly can smell with the two antenna on top of its head.

Rows and rows of scales create superb colors and designs on the butterfly's wings.

Butterflies mate only with their own species.
When a male and a female want to mate . . .

Butterflies mate only with their own species.
When a male and a female want to mate . . .

. . . they place
the tips of their
abdomens
together.

After carefully choosing a plant and then a leaf,
the female can lay up to 300 eggs.

When it hatches,
the larva of the caterpillar
breaks out of its egg using its jaws.
Usually the larva's first meal
is its own eggshell!

Soon the caterpillar stops eating and becomes perfectly still; the molting is about to begin.

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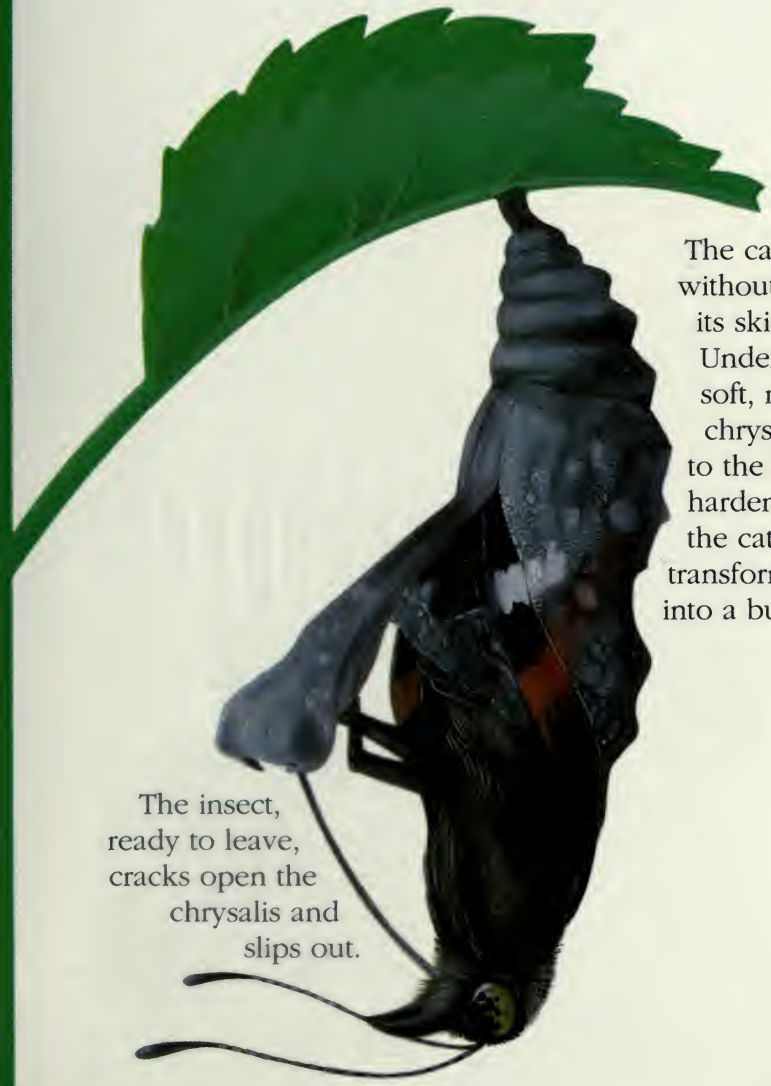
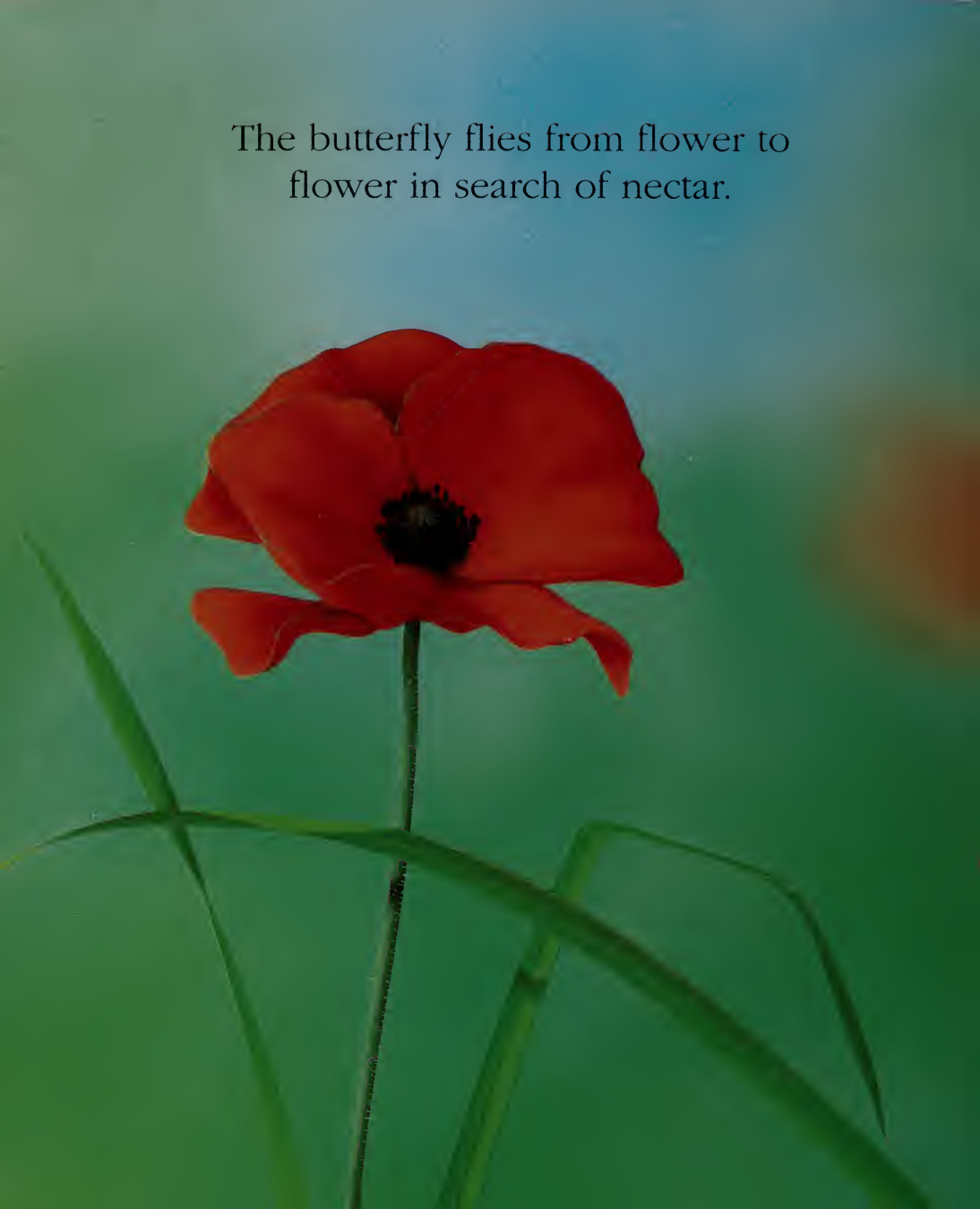


The caterpillar hangs without moving while its skin splits open. Underneath, a very soft, newly formed chrysalis is exposed to the air, causing it to harden. On the inside, the caterpillar is transforming itself into a butterfly!

The insect, ready to leave, cracks open the chrysalis and slips out.

The butterfly flies from flower to flower in search of nectar.



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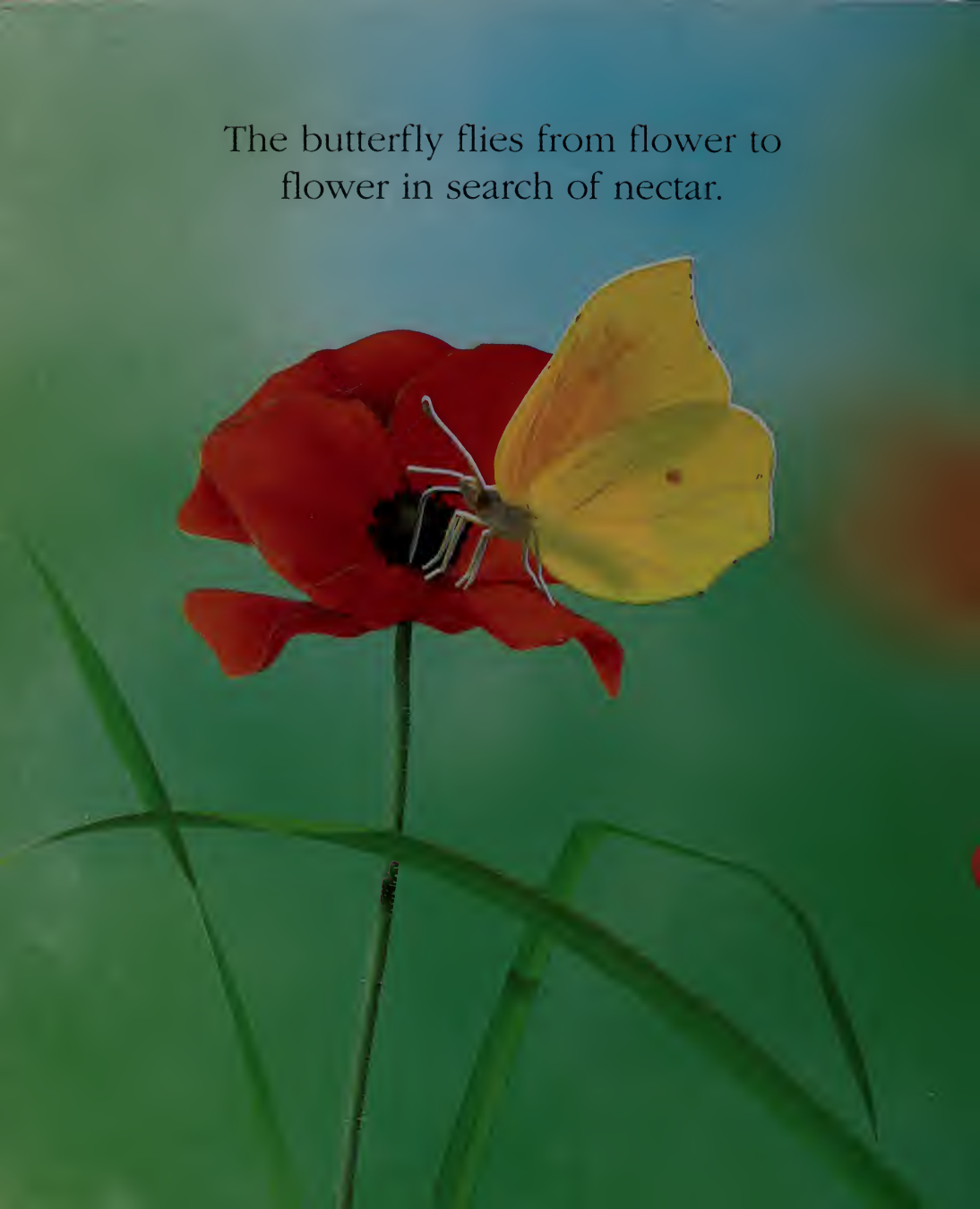
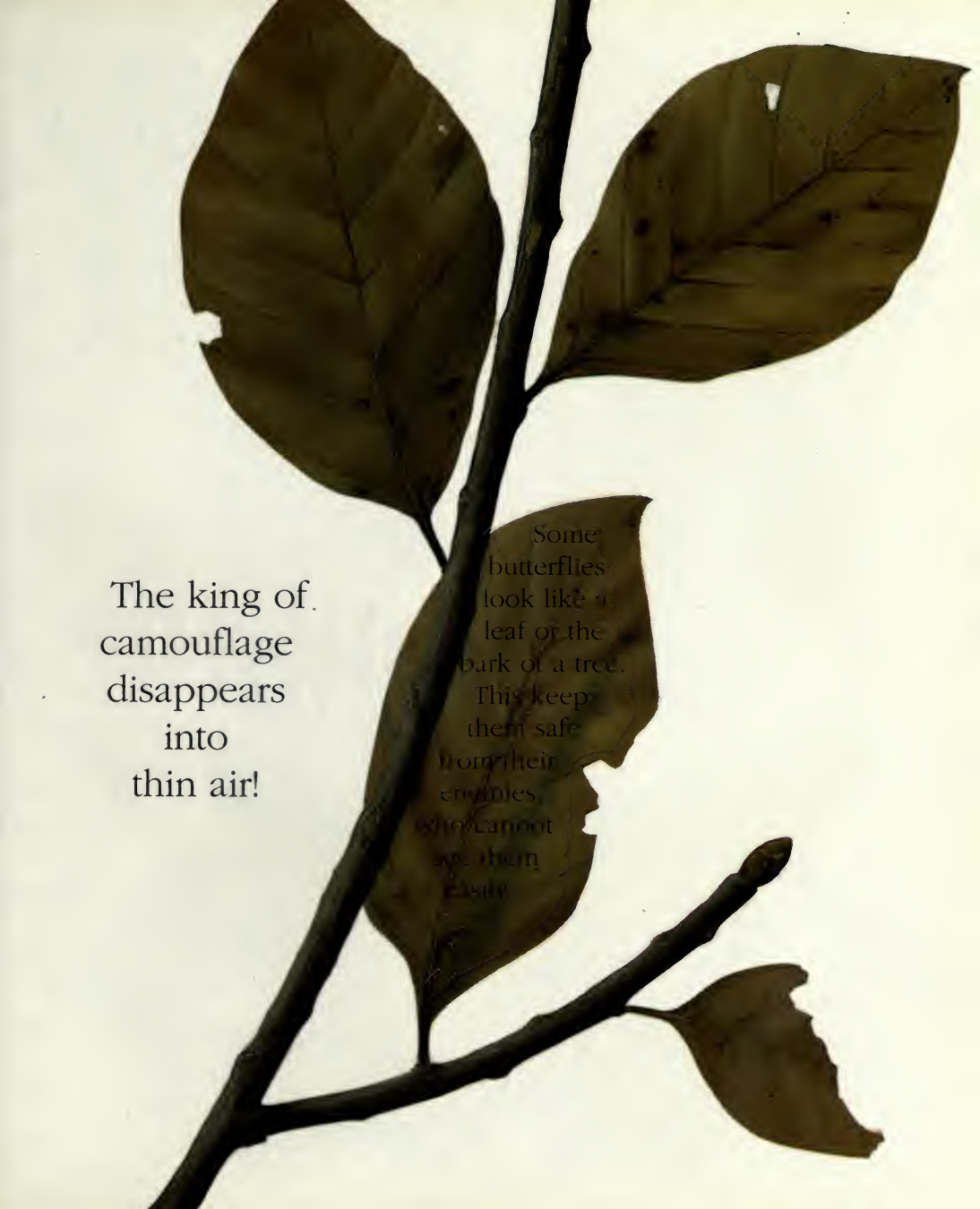


The butterfly carries pollen from one flower to another. This helps flowers to reproduce.

Look for the hidden butterfly, then turn the page.

Look for the hidden butterfly, then turn the page.

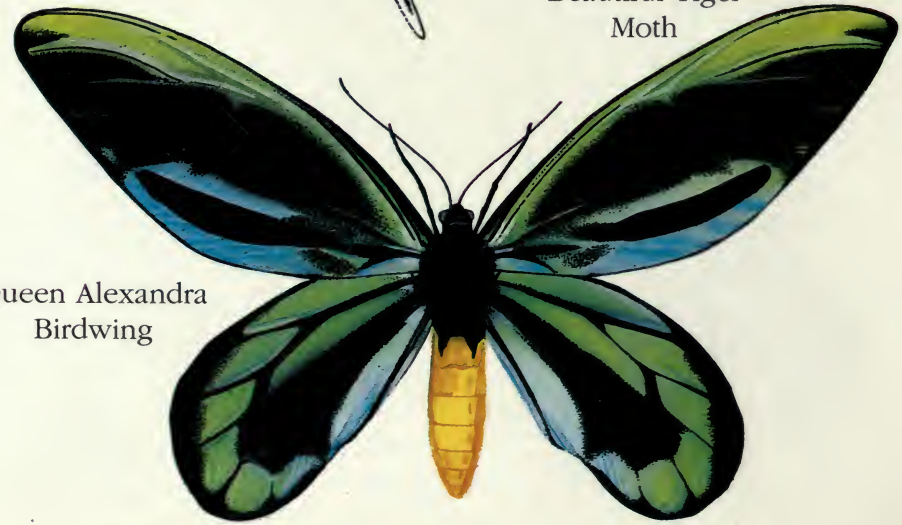

The king of camouflage disappears into thin air!
Some butterflies look like a leaf or the bark of a tree. This keeps them safe from their enemies, who cannot see them easily.

Broad-bordered
Grass Yellow
Butterfly

Blue Hairstreak
Butterfly

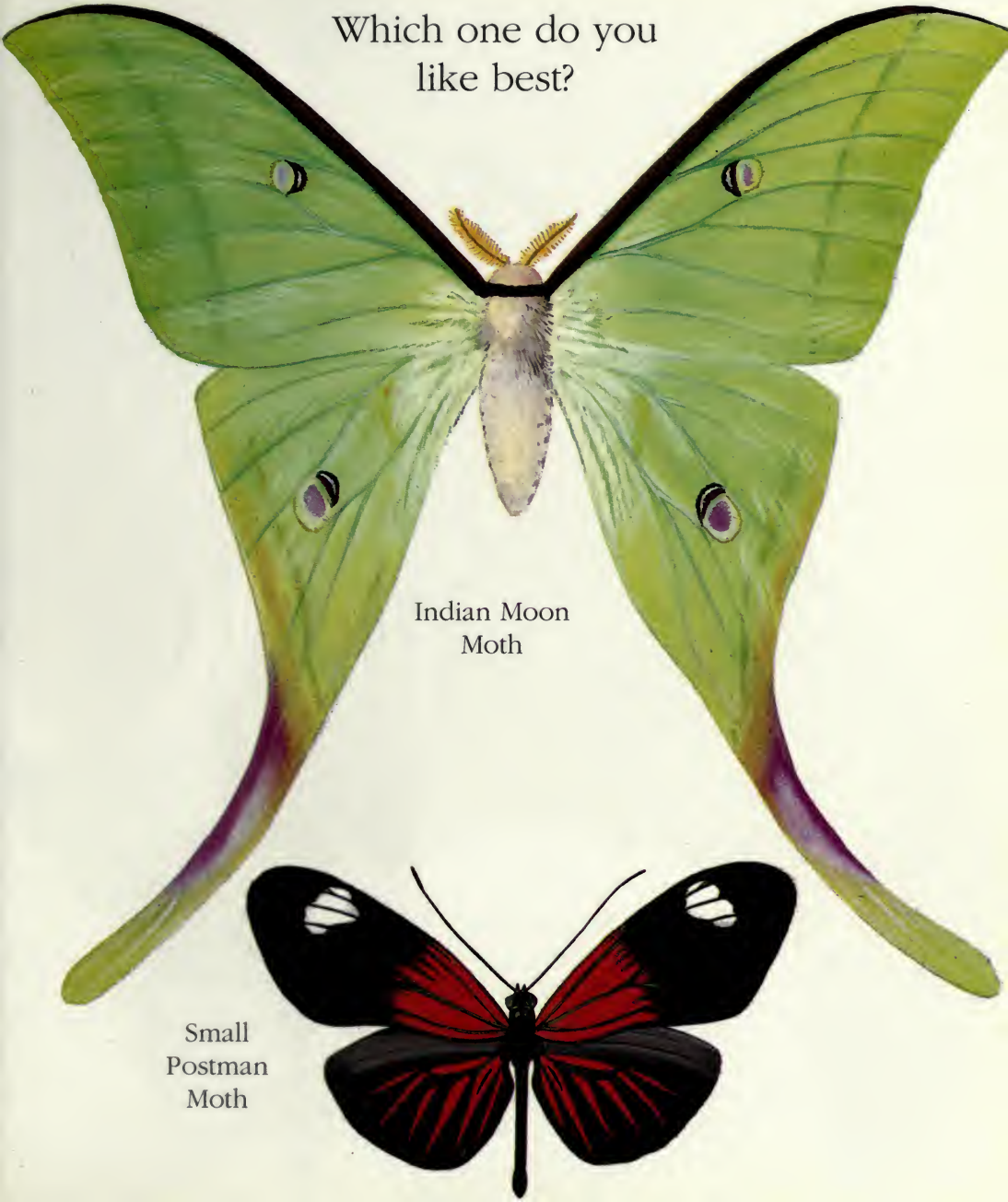
Zebra
Swallowtail

Beautiful Tiger
Moth



Queen Alexandra
Birdwing

Which one do you like best?



Indian Moon Moth

Small Postman Moth

The Pygmy Blue
is the smallest butterfly
in the world.

The Atlas Moth
is the largest moth,
with its big and
unusually shaped wings.
It can be found in India,
Sri Lanka, China, Malaysia,
and Indonesia.

Here are some
special butterflies!

The Sphinx Moth
has one of the
longest tongues.

Here are other butterfly relatives and their larva forms.

Dragonfly

The larva of some insects, like those of the dragonfly, live in the water.

Cicada
Ladybug
Some are airborne,
while others live
in the ground.
Death's Head
Hawkmoth

Fold a piece of paper as if to make a paper accordion...

...draw a half butterfly on it

How do you make a string of butterflies?

...and then cut through the layers of paper along the outline of the butterfly.

Don't chase butterflies!

Instead, observe them in nature.
You might catch them in a net
for only a few moments—
on the condition that you
release them back into their
natural habitat immediately.
They are delicate and precious insects
and must be treated gently.

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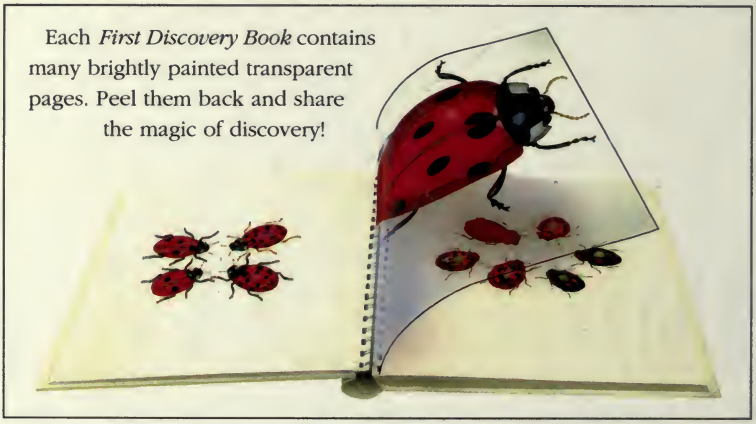
In this unique introduction to BUTTERFLIES, *A First Discovery Book*, young children can watch a caterpillar turn into a butterfly, learn about butterfly camouflage, and meet the most interesting of the 150,000 species of butterflies and moths!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